

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of NorthWestern Corporation)	Docket No. NG-0048
d/b/a NorthWestern Energy, Seeking)	
Approval of a Natural Gas Rate)	

PETITION FOR FORMAL INTERVENTION

Roger P. Cox, the appointed Public Advocate (hereafter “Intervener”), pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 66-1830, petitions to Formally Intervene in the above-entitled matter. In support of this Petition, Intervener respectfully states as follows:

1. Intervener, as the Public Advocate, is a position created by the Nebraska Legislature and appointed by the Nebraska Public Service Commission (“Commission”).
2. Intervener’s address is 800 Lincoln Square, 121 S. 13th Street, P.O. Box 82028, Lincoln, Nebraska 68501-2028.
3. By statute, Intervener is empowered to represent the interests of Nebraska citizens and all classes of jurisdictional utility ratepayers, other than high-volume ratepayers, in matters involving jurisdictional utilities and competitive natural gas providers.
4. On June 1, 2007, NorthWestern Corporation (“NorthWestern”), a jurisdictional utility serving jurisdictional ratepayers in Nebraska, filed an Application for Natural Gas Rate Increase applicable to service provided to NorthWestern’s customers located in the Nebraska communities of North Platte, Kearney, Grand Island and Alda (the “Affected Cities”).
5. Intervener files this Petition in order to represent the interests of Nebraska citizens and all classes of jurisdictional ratepayers affected by this proceeding.
6. The purpose of this Intervention is to participate in proceedings before the Commission with regard to the aforesaid Application.

7. The Public Advocate is aware that NorthWestern has indicated a desire to negotiate directly with the Affected Cities as permitted under the provisions of the State Natural Gas Regulation Act (“the Act”) if the Affected Cities opt to do so under the specific procedures provided by the Act. In submitting this Petition for Formal Intervention, the Public Advocate does not mean to be understood to assume or predict whether the Affected Cities will opt to negotiate directly with NorthWestern in this matter if the Affected Cities opt to do so. However, this Petition is being submitted at this time in order to ensure that the Public Advocate’s intervention in this proceeding is timely and so that the Public Advocate will be in place as a party in the event that either (a) the Affected Cities opt not to negotiate directly with NorthWestern, or (b) the Affected Cities opt to negotiate directly with NorthWestern, but any such negotiations do not result in a full settlement with respect to NorthWestern’s Application.

8. Interested parties, including the Intervener, should have an opportunity to participate in discovery and to present evidence and cross-examine Applicant’s witnesses through the Commission’s customary hearing process.

WHEREFORE, the Intervener respectfully requests the Commission permit formal intervention by the Public Advocate in this proceeding, that the Public Advocate be designated a Formal Intervener in this proceeding pursuant to the Rules of Commission Procedure and that the Commission establish a progression schedule for this case and set this matter for oral hearing after allowing a suitable period for discovery.

DATED this 27 day of June, 2007.

ROGER P. COX, Public Advocate,
Formal Intervener

BY: HARDING & SHULTZ, P.C., L.L.O. and
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BY: 
One of Intervener's Attorneys

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE


The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing Petition for Formal Intervention was served by e-mail and U.S. Mail, sufficient postage prepaid on the 27 day of June, 2007, upon the following individuals:

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